

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0039-EA
June 2015**

Iron Springs Solar Project Generation Tie Line

Location:
Northeast of Cedar City
Iron County, Utah

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cedar City Field Office
Phone: (435) 865-3000
Fax: (435) 865-3058



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0039-EA
Iron Springs Solar Project Generation Tie Line

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Iron Springs Solar Project Generation Tie Line will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.


Authorized Officer

7/23/15
Date

DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0039-EA
Iron Springs Solar Project Generation Tie Line

Authorities

The authority for this decision is contained in Title V, Section 501, of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act FLPMA (43 U.S.C. § 1761) and regulations at 43 CFR 2800.

Compliance and Monitoring

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will monitor the Right-of-Way (ROW) to ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the grant. The monitoring will include inspecting construction, operation, and maintenance and protection and rehabilitation activities until the holder completes rehabilitation of the ROW.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations

Appendix B of DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0039-EA contains a Plan of Development which includes numerous Design Features to reduce impacts. These design features are considered part of the proposed action and will be adhered to as part of the ROW grant. The proponent will also be required to adhere to all grant terms and conditions.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

The requested ROW is within the Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area (GTPSRMA), administered by the BLM CCFO. Land use decisions for BLM-administered land in the project area are contained in the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan, as amended. The Project is specifically provided for in Decision 3.1, which states that applications for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits be processed on a case-by-case basis.

Alternatives Considered

The No Action Alternative was considered as a baseline to compare impacts. No other alternatives were considered on public lands, as any impacts from another route would likely be greater than those expected from the proposed action.

Decision

It is my decision to approve a Title V ROW grant for the Iron Springs Solar Project Generation Tie Line as described in the proposed action of the attached EA.

Rationale for Decision

Approval of the ROW grant will meet of the purpose and need of the EA and will not cause unnecessary and undue degradation of public land. It is anticipated that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Utah prairie dog. The USFWS concurred with this finding by letter dated July 14, 2015. The ROW will allow for generation of solar energy, a renewable energy resource, on private land.

Protest/Appeal

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive Cedar City, UT 84721. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted; and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adversely effected party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.


Elizabeth R. Burghard
Cedar City Field Office Manager

7/23/15
Date

Attachments: DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0039-EA